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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims a follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An XML-based ~~tag for~~ element stored in a computer-readable memory medium for encoding a visual cue for associated to a visual element of an XML-based component of a multimedia presentation, wherein the ~~multimedia presentation XML-based element~~ is structured for ~~display use by a computer to display the multimedia presentation including the visual component and the visual cue~~ on a display surface of ~~a the~~ computer, wherein the XML-based ~~tag element~~ comprises:

a visual an-element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial an-element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal an-element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

wherein the ~~defined~~ temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are defined relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual ~~element component~~, and

wherein the computer superimposes a display of the visual cue's display over the associated cue on the display of the computer over the visual element component in the multimedia presentation, using with a visual appearance which is based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue as defined in the visual element attribute that

defines visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time which is based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element which is based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

2. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag element, as defined in Claim 1, further wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

3. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes color.

4. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

5. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

6. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the XML-based tag element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element component.

7. (Currently Amended) In an XML-based browser that displays a synchronized multimedia ~~presentations~~ presentation on a display of a computer to a user, a method for processing an XML-based tag element for a visual cue associated with a visual component of the multimedia element presentation, comprising:

storing information from the tag XML-based element concerning the ~~multimedia element~~ visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the tag XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the ~~multimedia element~~ visual component, displaying the visual cue with the visual representation specified, and in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual element component, and

wherein the display of the visual cue ~~cue's display~~ is superimposed over the associated visual element component in the multimedia presentation ~~with using~~ a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of

time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

8. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, ~~further~~ wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

9. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes color.

10. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

11. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

12. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the XML-based tag element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual ~~element~~ component.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer executable process steps to display a synchronized multimedia presentation on a

display of a computer to a user, and to process an XML-based tag element for a visual cue associated with a multimedia element, the visual component of the multimedia presentation, wherein the computer-executable process step cause the computer to execute process steps comprising:

a storing step to store information from the tag XML-based element concerning the multimedia element visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the tag XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the multimedia element visual component, a displaying step to display the visual cue with the visual representation in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual element component, and

wherein the display of the visual cue's display cue is superimposed over the associated visual element component in the multimedia presentation with using a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes color.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the XML-based tag-element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element-component.

19. to 21. (Cancelled).

Please add Claims 22 to 45, as follows:

22. (New) A method for displaying a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display screen of a computer executing an XML-based browser, comprising:

receiving XML-based data including an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the multimedia component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

25. (New) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

26. (New) A computer-readable memory medium storing computer-executable process steps that cause a computer to display a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display screen of the computer which is executing an XML-based browser, wherein the computer-executable process steps comprise:

receiving XML-based data including an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the visual component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

27. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 26, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:



a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

28. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

29. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

30. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a display screen;

a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps that cause a synchronized multimedia presentation to be displayed on the display screen, and for storing XML-based data for synchronizing the display of the multimedia presentation; and

a processor to execute the process steps stored in the storage medium;

wherein the process steps comprise:

receiving the XML-based data, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the visual component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

31. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

32. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

33. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

34. (New) A method of editing XML-based data that encodes a synchronized display of a multimedia presentation, comprising:

retrieving the XML-based data from a computer-readable storage medium by using a computer, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component;

editing the XML-based data; and

storing the edited XML-based data in the computer-readable storage medium.

35. (New) A method according to Claim 34, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

36. (New) A method according to Claim 35, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

37. (New) A method according to Claim 35, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

38. (New) A computer-readable memory medium storing computer-executable process steps that cause a computer to edit XML-based data that encodes a synchronized display of a multimedia presentation, wherein the computer-executable process steps comprise:

retrieving the XML-based data from a computer-readable storage medium by using the computer, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based

visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component;

editing the XML-based data; and

storing the edited XML-based data in the computer-readable storage medium.

39. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 38, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

40. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 39, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

41. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 39, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

42. (New) A apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium for storing XML-based data that encodes a synchronized display of a multimedia presentation; and for storing computer-executable process steps that edit the XML-based data; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in the storage medium;

wherein the process steps comprise:

retrieving the XML-based data from the computer-readable storage medium, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component;

editing the XML-based data; and

storing the edited XML-based data in the storage medium.

43. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

44. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

45. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.